

United States District Court

SOUTHERN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

Sylvia Carla Mendes

YOB: 1988

COC: United States

Name and Address of Defendant

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
McAllen Division

AUG 22 2018

Clerk of Court

TEXAS

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Case Number: M-18-1727-M

I the undersigned complainant, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about August 21, 2018 in Hidalgo County, in the Southern District of Texas defendant(s) did,

knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, transports, or moves or attempts to transport or move such alien within the United States by means of transportation or otherwise, in furtherance of such violation of law and brought the alien for the purpose of commercial advantage or private gain,

in violation of Title 8 United States Code, Section(s) 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) & 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)
I further state that I am a(n) Customs and Border Protection Officer and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See Attachment A

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part of this complaint:

☐ Yes

☒ No

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

Approved By: **A. Andrade**

August 22, 2018

Date

J. Scott Hacker

U.S. Magistrate Judge

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

at

Signature of Complainant

Nidia Trevino

Printed Name of Complainant

McAllen, Texas

City and State

Signature of Judicial Officer

Attachment A

The defendant, a United States citizen and driver of the vehicle, attempted to bring illegally into the United States through the Hidalgo Port of Entry an undocumented minor A.D.G.D. (female, 13 years old), a Mexican citizen, as a United States citizen. At primary, the defendant claimed the child as her own and presented a State of Georgia Certificate of Live Birth bearing the name K.M. as proof. She also presented State of Georgia birth certificates for her two minor children. Her adult cousin was also present. All the passengers were referred into secondary due to A.D.G.D. not answering to the name provided on the birth certificate.

In secondary, the defendant claimed all the passengers as her children. Upon further inspection, the defendant admitted that she was not the child's mother and that the child was in fact a citizen of Mexico born in Veracruz. The defendant stated that she only knows the child's first name as A. The defendant went on to say that she had been propositioned by the child's mother, whom is living in the State of Georgia to bring the child into the United States illegally. She claimed that the child's mother gave her the idea of using her true child's birth certificate to facilitate A.D.G.D.'s entry.

The defendant stated that she borrowed the vehicle she was driving from the child's father and arrived in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico on August 21, 2018. She claimed that she drove to the child's aunt's house where she took custody of the child. The defendant stated that she was bringing the child into the United States as a favor to her friend as she seemed desperate to reunite with her child. The defendant admitted to receiving \$1,000 dollars for food and travel expenses.

Database queries revealed A.D.G.D. did not have any legal status to enter the United States. The child was transported to the McAllen Central Processing Center for temporary housing.